

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 23 August 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Holmes, Carleton	i	Oostaverne Wood Cem.	link
7 th Infantry Battalion	i	West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	i
Lieutenant	i	Plot 6 Row E Grave 2	i
Date of Death 24 April 1915	link	Exhumation 3 March 1926	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	n/a	Graves Registration Report	8
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	9
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	10
Trench Map(s)		Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	5	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates Files	6	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other: 1917 Passchendaele	7	Reporting and Review	11

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 6 Row E Grave 2 lists an Unknown Canadian Lieutenant, British Columbia (7th Infantry Battalion). He is buried with six (6) other members of the battalion, all exhumed from the same location.

It is our contention that the evidence is clear that the this grave holds the remains of Lieutenant Carleton Colquhoun Holmes of the 7th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action of April 24, 1915 at the location where the remains were exhumed.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 6 Row E Grave 6 are those of Lieutenant Carleton Colquhoun Holmes of the 7th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action of April 24, 1915 in the St. Julien Sector of Belgium.

The findings are based on the following:

1. There is an UNKNOWN Canadian Lieutenant of the British Columbia Regiment (7th Infantry Battalion) located in Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Wytschaete (Belgium) in Plot 6 Row E Grave 2. He lies with at least six (6) other men of the 7th Battalion all found at the same location on Sheet 28 C6 d.3.2, north of St. Julien. The evidence is clear that it is Lt. Carleton Holmes that is in this grave as he was the only one in that location at that time. This is confirmed in his Circumstance of Death file (Attachment #1).
2. The remains of Lieutenant Holmes were not known to have been recovered, or his name matched to the remains found at this location, and accordingly his name was inscribed on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, as noted on the Canadian War Graves Register (Attachment #2). According to a German list reported by Foreign Affairs, his burial location was unknown.
3. Considerable evidence for this examination came from the war diary of the 7th Infantry Battalion. The war diary was clear that the only time that the unit was in the vicinity of 28 C6 d.3.2 was on the 24th of April. On April 27, 1915 the 7th Battalion moved south toward Potijze in Sector I4. Commanding Officer Major Victor Odum himself gives us the key piece of information, showing the location of the Battalion at Sheet 28 C6 d.5.6 (Attachment #3a). On the 27th the battalion marched to Brielen (H.Q. 1st Canadian Division) via Potijze and Ypres. These are given in the 2nd Brigade Order of April 27, 1915 by none other than Brig. Gen. A. W. Currie (Attachment #3b). There is no mention of other Lieutenants of the 7th Battalion; however they picked up reinforcements on April 27, 1915 (Attachment #3c).
4. The location of the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion during the action north of St. Julien is depicted in the extract from Nicholson Map 1. Three companies of the battalion are approaching Gravenstafel Ridge from the southwest, south and southeast. Only the company approaching from the southwest was in the north area of Sector C6 (Attachment #4).
5. Examination of the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the month of April 1915 when the 7th Battalion was in the area shows only three (3) Lieutenants killed and missing and thus listed on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Attachment #5).
 - a. Lt. Herbert Bromley KIA 29/04/1915
 - b. Lt. Carleton Holmes KIA 24/04/1915
 - c. Lt. Robert Latta KIA 29/04/1915

6. Review of the Circumstance of Death files for Lieutenants Bromley and Latta show that at the time of their deaths they were not in the area where the remains were located (Attachment #6). Lt. Bromley was in the Brielin area (Sector B29) on April 29, 1915 when he was killed (Note: error on date of Lt. Bromley on CWGC records). Brielin was in the area of the 1st Canadian Division Headquarters. Lieutenant Latta was at Fortuin, near Pond Farm, to the south of where the remains were located. This was the location of the 2nd Brigade Headquarters.
7. The only other time during the Great War that the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion was in this sector of Belgium was during the attack on Passchendaele in October-November 1917. Five (5) Lieutenants of the 7th Battalion were KIA at that time, all on November 10th or 11th :
 - a. Lieutenant Harry Carter KIA 11/11/1917
 - b. Lieutenant William Fielding KIA 10/11/1917
 - c. Lieutenant Frederick Fisher KIA 10/11/1917
 - d. Lieutenant James Hewitt KIA 11/11/1917
 - e. Lieutenant Basil Thwaites KIA 10/11/1917

At that time the 7th Battalion was far removed from the area of Gravenstafel Ridge or St. Julien, concentrated rather in the area of east Meetcheele (Sheet 28 D5) near Vindictive Crossroads (Sheet 28 D6), northwest of Passchendaele (Attachment #7).

8. The CWGC Graves Registration Report Form shows that there is an Unknown Canadian Lieutenant of the British Columbia (Regiment) in Plot 6 Row H Grave 2 at the Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery. The British Columbia Regiment is a direct reference to the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion. Six (6) other men of the 7th Battalion appear on that list in Graves 3-7 and Grave 10. There are two Unknown Canadian Soldiers, not identified by rank or unit, listed for Graves 8 and 9 in that row (Attachment #8).
9. The CWGC Concentrations of Graves (Exhumation and Reburials) Burial Return shows that all of the remains were exhumed at a point marked as Sheet 28 C6 d.3.2 (Attachment #9). This information provides us with a means to compare the location of the deaths of the three (3) candidate Lieutenants from April 1915 relative to the location of the remains.
10. Examination of a trench map for the area relative to the location of where Lieutenants Holmes, Latta and Bromley were killed provides the final confirmation as to the identity of the remains. Lt. Latta was killed near Fortuin and Lt. Bromley near Brielen, considerable distance from where the remains were located in Sector C6.d.3.2 (Attachment #10a). A close up on a 1:10,000 trench map from the Imperial War Museum shows that the area where Lt. Latta was killed near Pond Farm is at Sector C18 d.9.9 (Attachment #10b).

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #11).

We believe that the evidence that is presented in this report clearly shows that the remains located at Map Coordinates Sheet 28 C6 d.3.2 are those of Lieutenant Carleton Colquhoun Holmes of the 7th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action of April 24, 1915. Only two other candidates were possible and neither was in the area at the time of their death, after the 7th Battalion had left the area.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAMES	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	Lieutenant,	HOLMES,	Carlton Colquhoun,
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
7th Battalion.	24-4-15.	SS2-121-6.	Church of England.
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY			
"Killed in Action."			
10. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
ATTACK IN THE VICINITY OF ST. JULIEN.			
NOTE:—Boxes 11, 12 and 13 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
11. CEMETERY	12. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	13. GRAVE LOCATION	14. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave Plot Row	
15. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	16. EXPOSURE NO.	17. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
18. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

ATTACHMENT #2

E-103
2-18

332-121.5

NUMBER..... RANK *Lieut.* NAME *HOLMES, Carleton Colquhoun*

UNIT *7. Batt.* NEXT-OF-KIN: *Mr. Arthur C. Holmes*

FILE NO. R.L. *9-H-85* 704, Esquimault Road, 22017

D.G.R. & E. Ref. Victoria, B. C..

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
<i>Dec. 4. 15.</i>	<i>Killed in action in the field near Ypres.</i>	<i>AGB. 2090 A.</i>

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
<i>X</i>	<i>✓ Burial place unknown according to German list communicated by Foreign Office 2/8/15</i> <i>Killed in Area - Langemark Authority on R.L. 9-H-85</i>	

MENIN GATE MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #3a

35

From O.C. 7th Can Bde
Cty, P.O.C. 3rd Can. Inf Bde
Under instructions from G.O.C.
2nd Can. Inf Bde, I am to report
my battalion to you and accept
instructions from you until
otherwise ordered. The 1st Can.
Bde. on my right evacuated its
trenches in front at about 4.30
this morning owing to aphygating
fumes used by enemy in attack.
My line is intact its right
resting on C 6 d 5.6. In view
of the situation on my right,
what course am I to pursue?
My battalion entrenched last night
but owing to shortness of time
available the trenches are
incomplete.

B.W.O. Holmes
Major
24.4.15

11

5- 1-30 4

52.

Operation Order N^o 1.

Operation Order by
Brigadier General A. H. G. G.
General Officer Commanding
2nd Canadian Infantry Bde
Headquarters
27th April 1915

I. The 2nd Canadian Infantry
Brigade will proceed to
MOVE. POTIJZE after dark to night.
The 4th BN will move at
8 PM, the 8th BN at 8.15 PM,
the 5th BN at 8.30 PM the
10th at 8.45 PM.

II The route will be via
road C 30 B. D 25 C, C 30
c.d. to POTIJZE.
If road is heavily
shelled O.C. Battalions
will use their own
discretion as to keeping

ATTACHMENT #3c

55.

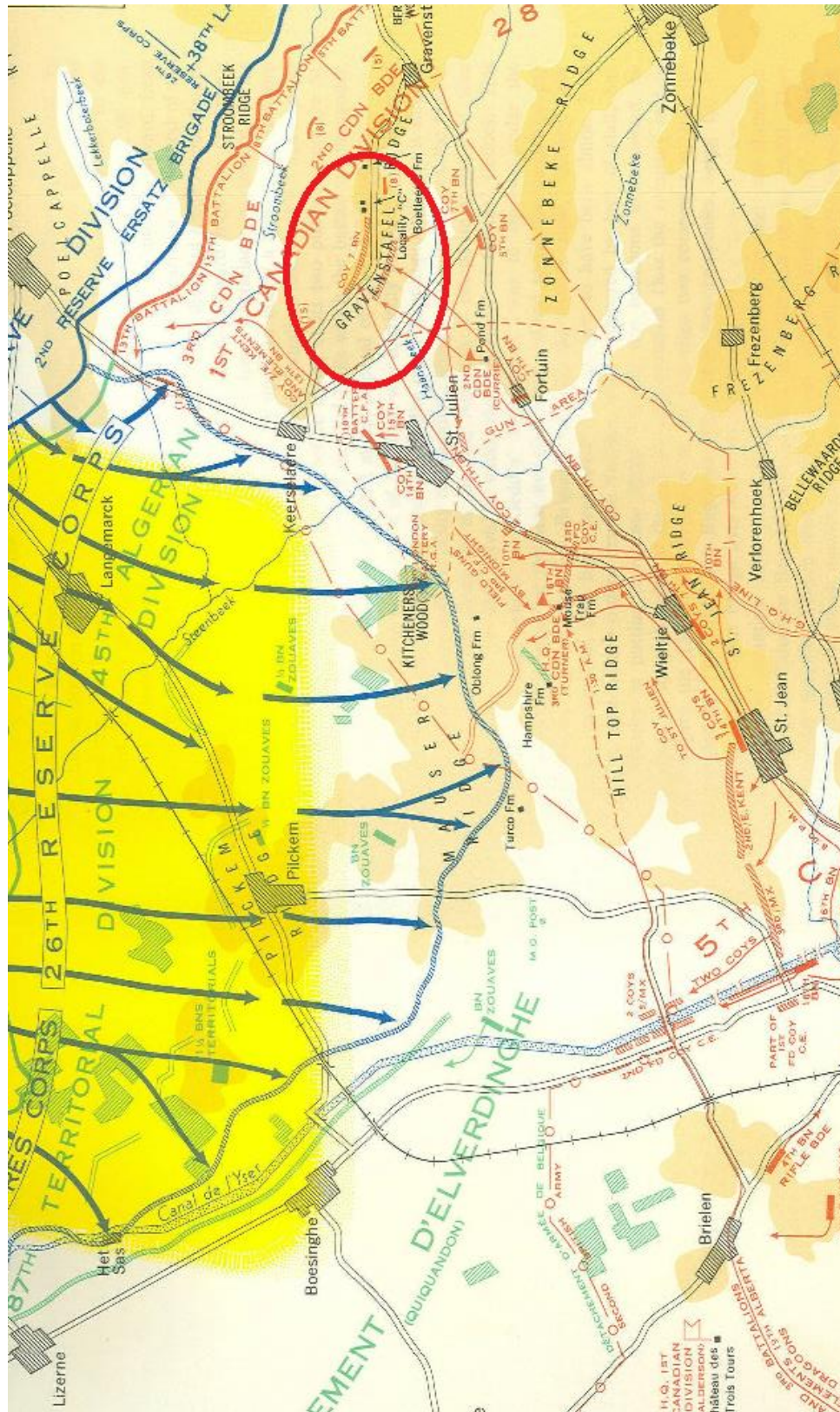
4
To
G.O.C. 2nd. Can. Inf. Bde.

In ref. to your
S.O. 168 of the 26th I beg to report
that our losses to the
present line are approximately
between 500 & 600 killed, wounded
& missing. A.A.

We have at present with us
the following officers: - Major Odell,
Capt. Cooper, Capt. Harris, Capt. Garrow,
Lieut. St. John & Dawson. A.A. Capt.
Anderson & Lieut. Descombes joined us
today as reinforcements.




St. Garrow Capt. & Capt.
- Capt. St.
A.B. 10. 27/9/15

ATTACHMENT #4



ATTACHMENT #5

5th Battalion Lieutenants KIA April 1915 on Menin Gate Memorial

◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
BROMLEY, HERBERT ASSHETON	Lieutenant		24/04/1915	36	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
HOLMES, CARLETON COLQUHOUN	Lieutenant		24/04/1915	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
LATTA, ROBERT PETER	Lieutenant		29/04/1915	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

Correction Notice:

Lieutenant Bromley is incorrectly reported as having been killed in action on April **24**, 1915 when in fact he was killed 5 days later on April **29**, 1915 (see Attachment #7) for Circumstance of Death file.

ATTACHMENT #6

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAME
	Lieutenant	BROMLEY	Herbert Assheton
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
7th Battalion	29-4-15	332-121-4	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
BRIELEN			
NOTE:—Items 17, 18 and 19 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
Provisional Missing Memorial.		Grave	
		Plot	
		Row	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

M. F. W. 5209
19 Dec 1915
S. E. 1000 ft and 11. 2000 ft

NJ.

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAME
	Lieutenant	LATTA	Robert Peter
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
7th Battalion	29-4-15	332-6-12	Presbyterian
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
PORTUIN.			
NOTE:—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave	
		Plot	
		Row	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

M. F. W. 5209
19 Dec 1915
S. E. 1000 ft and 11. 2000 ft

NJ.

ATTACHMENT #7

(Note: exclude Lt. Morris as he is with the 87th Infantry Battalion)

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
CARTER, HARRY	Lieutenant		11/11/1917	35	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
FIELDING, W S	Lieutenant		10/11/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
FISHER, FREDERICK JAMES	Lieutenant		10/11/1917	27	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
HEWITT, J T	Lieutenant		11/11/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
MORRIS, GEORGE EDWARD	Lieutenant		13/11/1917	22	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
THWAITES, BASIL CHAMPION	Lieutenant		10/11/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 18 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

7th Battalion War Diary November 10, 1917:

WAR DIARY			Army Form C. 2118.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			
(Leave heading not required.)			
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
PASSCHENDAELE SECTOR	November 10th. 1917.	(continued)	<p>5th.Battn.and South Wales Borderers'Headquarters at MERTCHELLE, the Report Centre and O.P. at D.5.b.25.25. and 10th.Battn Headquaters at BELLEVUE were swept by a terrific fire throughout the day. As the attack progressed,white lights showed that our objectives were won. The situation on the left where the 3rd.English Imperial Brigade were attacking,remained rather obscure throughout the day.It appears that some of them mistook their direction and came on to our front and that other troops got on well at first,but later became confused under the terrific enemy fire and retired. The officer Commanding the 8th.C.I.Battn.was in constant touch with the situation and when this occurred,formed a defensive flank. The objectives of the 2nd.C.I.Brigade were consolidated.</p> <p>The assembly of the Battalions for this attack was successfully carried out under the most trying conditions,namely,- a heavy and accurate enemy bombardment,but despite this,at zero hour the attack was launched by us with great vigor and pressed home to the final objective with the utmost dash and gallantry.The splendid leadership of our officers and the tenacity and courage of the men overcame all difficulties.</p> <p>Throughout the night and early morning,linemen worked unceasingly endeavouring to keep up communications ,but finally the enemy fire made this impossible.</p> <p>Communications were then kept up with the rear by runners, Lucas lamps, and pigeons. It will be well to note here the magnificent work of the Unit,Battalion and Brigade runners. These runners kept up communications between Company and Battalion H.Q's - and Forward Report Centre and Brigade Headquarters under the most terrific enemy artillery fire ever experienced by this brigade,8", 5.9", 4.1" and 7.7" fire raked the area from the North and from the South also with enfilade and and reverse oblique fire,while above this deluge of shellchurning the ground,heavy and light shrapnel burst overhead without cessation. At 7.00 a.m. the rain started and gradually increased to a heavy and soaking storm,increasing further the awful conditions under which communications were maintained.</p> <p>The Brigade attack was launched from a jumping off position on the MERTCHELLE SEUR of the PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE. On the right the attack passed through the northerly outskirts of the town and pushed forward to the objective on the 50 contour,from which the ground slopes away and rises again in the distance to MORSLEDE. In the centre the attack worked up and along the top of the ridge in the vicinity of the main PASSCHENDAELE ROAD. On the left the attack worked up the slope and on to the ridge at contour 52.</p>

ATTACHMENT #8

Army Form W3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

"ALL CONCENTRATIONS." SECTION COMPREHENSIVE REPORT SCHEDULE No.

REPORT No. I 47 46.C.

COMMUNE. WYTSCHAETE? OOSTTAVERNE WOOD CEMETERY : WYTSCHAETE.

PLACE OF BURIAL 28.0.15.c.40.85.

Land belongs to

The following are buried here:— Plot.6. Row "G" Cont'd ALL CROSSES ERECTED

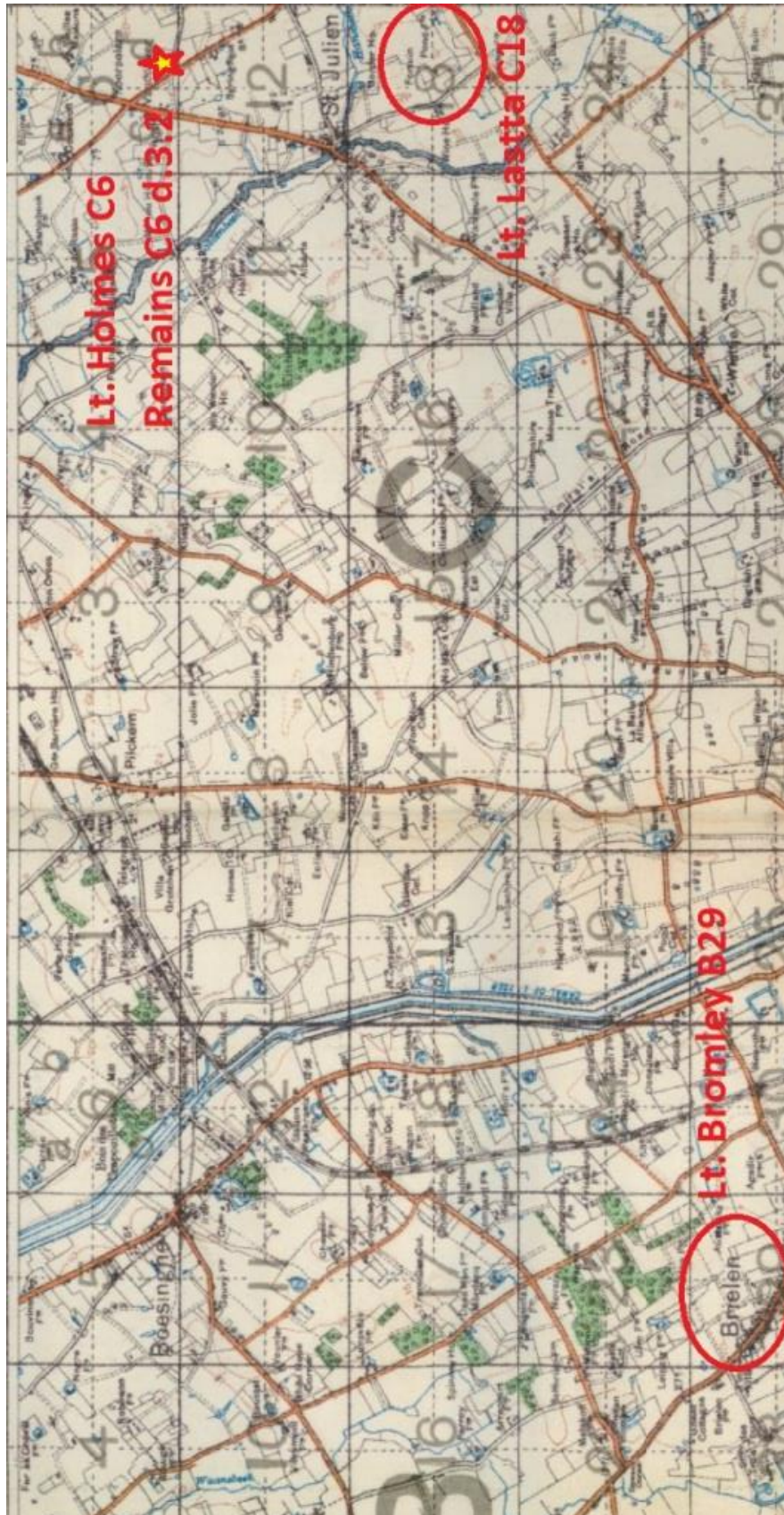
Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or Despatched	Map Reference
4th att'd 1st East Surrey Rgt.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E	25. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E.	26. ✓
		NORTON.	2/Lt.T.E.	20.4.15.	E.	27. ✓
<u>Plot.6. Row "H"</u>						
British Columbia. 7th Canadians. 7th Canadians. 7th Canadians. 7th Canadians. 7th Canadians.		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	1. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN LIEUTENANT			E.	2. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	3. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	4. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	5. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	6. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	7. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	8. ✓
7th Canadians.		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	9. ✓
7th Canadians.		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER			E.	10. ✓
5th City of London Rgt.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E.	11. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E.	12. ✓

ENTERED. SLIPS CHECKED

(6 31 5) W8219—M901 20,000 10/16 HWV(P237A) Forms/W3372/1
12894—M1803 30,000 1/17

Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery 6.E.2

Attachment #10a



Lieutenant Holmes



ATTACHMENT #11

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author